

## Step-by-Step Guide to Implementing Accredited CME Improvement Activities

Accredited CME activities that address gaps in performance or healthcare quality can simultaneously help clinicians meet professional expectations for Maintenance of Certification/Continuing Certification, the CMS Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and Joint Commission Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE).

### 1. Identify which of your existing CME activities are *already* Improvement Activities?

If the CMS/Board expectation <sup>1</sup> is that the accredited activity must...	Look for approaches like these in your activities
<p>a. address a quality or safety gap that is supported by a needs assessment or problem analysis, or support the completion of such a needs assessment as part of the activity;<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>We've identified an area for improvement based on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-identified needs of individuals or groups</li> <li>• Organizational priorities and strategic plan</li> <li>• Clinical data, performance measures, sentinel or near-miss events, quality dashboard, EHR, claims data, registry data, chart audit</li> <li>• Root cause analysis</li> <li>• Patient satisfaction/HCAHPS</li> </ul>
<p>b. have specific, measurable aim(s) for improvement;</p>	<p><b>Our objective(s) for this activity/series will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• address performance of a skill or procedure</li> <li>• improve teamwork, care coordination, interprofessional collaborative practice</li> <li>• improve a process or outcome of care</li> <li>• improve patient/population health</li> </ul>
<p>c. include data collection and analysis of performance data to assess the impact of the interventions; and</p>	<p><b>We'll measure our impact by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• asking participants to evaluate if they've changed or improved, or if their team has</li> <li>• observing if processes have changed</li> <li>• evaluating the reduction or elimination of the gap</li> <li>• measuring improved individual, team or system performance</li> </ul>
<p>d. define meaningful clinician participation in their activity, describe the mechanism for identifying clinicians who meet the requirements, and provide participant completion information.</p>	<p><b>To provide the most value, we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help learners understand how their participation in the activity will support their improvement</li> <li>• provide incentives for full engagement in the activity (e.g., credit, MOC points)</li> <li>• use a sign-in sheet, an iPad, or an electronic survey to keep track of who participated</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> These are the CMS requirements of "Completion of An Accredited Safety or Quality Improvement Program" (Activity ID IA\_PSPA\_28) under the Patient Safety and Practice Assessment category.

<sup>2</sup> This expectation is synonymous with ACCME's Criterion 2—but anchored to a quality or patient safety gap.

2. Choose among the professional requirements that apply to your clinician learners. Accredited CME Improvement Activities automatically meet the expectations for all of these professional activities.
  - ✓ **Maintenance of Certification/Continuing Certification for the following medical specialties:**
    - Internists (and internal medicine subspecialists) – Medical Knowledge points, Practice Assessment points, and Patient Safety Credit for the American Board of Internal Medicine
    - Anesthesiologists – MOCA 2.0 for the American Board of Anesthesiology
    - Ophthalmologists – Lifelong Learning & Self Assessment and Improvement in Medical Practice for the American Board of Ophthalmology
    - Otolaryngologists – Lifelong Learning and Improvement in Medical Practice for the American Board of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery
    - Pathologists – Lifelong Learning and Improvement in Medical Practice for the American Board of Pathology
    - Pediatricians – Lifelong Learning for the American Board of Pediatrics
  - ✓ **Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Clinical Practice Improvement Activities**
    - Accredited CME Improvement Activities are approved as, “*Completion of An Accredited Safety or Quality Improvement Program*” (Activity ID IA\_PSPA\_28) under the *Patient Safety and Practice Assessment* category on the QPP website for the 2018 Performance Year
  - ✓ **Focused or Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE/OPPE) to meet the Medical Staff Standards of the Joint Commission**
  - ✓ **Institutional or Organizational Quality and Safety Goals**
3. Help your clinicians report their participation.
  - ✓ Both activity registration *and* physician participation in Maintenance of Certification/Continuing Certification can be reported directly via ACCME's Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS) for the certifying boards described above. Here's a [tutorial](#) to get started.
  - ✓ For MIPS Improvement Activities, the [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) website](#) will be providing guidance shortly on how clinicians can attest to their participation for the Performance Year 2018.